

But by acting on the sentiment of the Italian philosopher, mentioned in one of the essays of the Rambler, that "time was his estate," which yielded nothing without culture, but made rich returns to diligence and labor, much more may be accomplished in the space allotted to us, than is generally imagined. Others apprehend that such a course of mental exercise and discipline, is calculated to

"Freeze the genial currents of the soul,"

and doom them to austerity and servitude—forgetting that a life of diligence and industry, is not by any means a life of drudgery. Labors, it is true, are demanded; but they are the labors of Hercules, triumphing over obstacles—not the ineffectual exertions of Sisyphus. And although they were multiplied twelve-fold, they would be well imposed, did they but subdue sloth, that wicked foe to all generous effort and enterprize, and give us active, intrepid, and well furnished minds. But as every advance in knowledge opens a new scene of delight, the toils so appalling to indolence and despondency vanish away in our progress, *et labor ipse est voluptas*.

But the eager desire to leap into the arena of affairs, and participate in the stirring events of the learned professions, or of politics, is in our young and adventurous country, one great obstacle to the liberal culture of the mind. In such a country, life itself is a school in which practical affairs are practically taught with but a limited course of previous education, and with its keen competitions and excitements daily before us, it is difficult to command the patience and perseverance necessary to profound and extensive erudition. And unless the habit of study and taste for generous learning has been established in early life, it will be in vain to look for them afterwards. It is in the department of public speaking that the candidate for distinction usually makes his *debut* before the world. It has been said of the British empire, that since the restoration of the second CHARLES and the practical changes wrought in the Constitution by the Revolution which preceded it, eloquence has usurped the place of wisdom; and the Government has been under the control of Parliamentary debaters, many of whom have been profoundly ignorant of the departments of the public service, which, on account of this species of talent alone, they have been called to administer, and that "a Premier who can make a successful speech, need trouble himself little about an unsuccessful expedition." Making every abatement for the overdrawing of this picture, it must be admitted